

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating via instant messages, the method comprising:

receiving a message from a message sender designated for at least one message recipient, said message comprising an indication of a sound identifier associated with said message sender, wherein, when the message is received by said at least one message recipient, said sound identifier is played for said at least one message recipient;

determining when the message is received by the at least one message recipient, wherein a determination that the message is received is confirmed by a message acknowledgement; and

providing a status update for the message sender, the status update comprising a visual representation of the message having a first appearance when the message is pending and a second appearance when the message is received by the at least one message recipient.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining when the message is received by the at least one message recipient comprises:

assigning a unique sequential number to the message; and
updating a message listing, wherein the message is identified by the unique sequential number in the message listing.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining when the message is received by the at least one message recipient comprises:

assigning a unique sequential number to the message; and

providing an acknowledgment to the message sender when the message is received by the at least one message recipient, the acknowledgment identifying the unique sequential number of the message.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the acknowledgment is also assigned a unique sequential number.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the visual representation is text from the message that alternates between a first color in the first appearance and a second color in the second appearance.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the first color indicates the message is pending receipt and the second color indicates the message is received.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the visual appearance alternates between a first pattern and a second pattern, at least one of the first and the second pattern indicating the message is pending and the other indicating the message is received.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining when the message is received by the at least one message recipient comprises:

providing an acknowledgment to the message sender when the message is received by the at least one message recipient, the acknowledgement identifying the unique sequential number of the message, wherein the visual appearance of the status update before the acknowledgment is received is provided in a first configuration and in a second configuration once the acknowledgment is received.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending the message to the at least one message recipient to a plurality devices used by the message recipient.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for establishing instant messaging communications between a message originator and one or more message receivers, the method comprising:

receiving an instant message from the message originator;

providing the instant message from the message originator to the one or more message receivers specified by the message originator, said instant message comprising an indication of a sound identifier associated with said message originator, wherein, when the instant message is received by said one or more message receivers, said sound identifier is played for said one or more message receivers; and

providing an update of a local message display of the message originator once the message originator's instant message is received by the one or more message receivers, wherein the local message display is provided in a pending configuration before the message is received by the one or more message receivers and the local display is provided in a received configuration once the message is received by the one or more message receivers, the receipt of the message being acknowledged by a message acknowledgment by a message acknowledgment sent by the one or more message receivers.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the local message display provides a display of the message text in the pending and received configurations.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining when the instant message is received by the one or more message receivers.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein determining when the instant message is received by the one or more message receivers comprises:

establishing a message listing for the message sender and the one or more message receivers, wherein the message listing updated based on an acknowledgment of the message being received by the one or more message receivers.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the message listing prohibits duplication of the instant message on the one or more message receivers' devices.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein each message in the message listing is identified by a unique serial number.

16. – 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said indication comprises a request to play the sound identifier.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said indication comprises the sound identifier.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said indication comprises a request to play the sound identifier.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said indication comprises the sound identifier.

25. – 26. (Canceled)